

**Episode 21:
Opening the
Gate**



* Rejected Cover Idea

THE MOOD DIDN'T FIT
WITH THE WORLD.





THERE'S
A
RECORD
OF IT.

AFTER
THE
MOPPING
UP
OPERATION
SIX DAYS
AGO,
SIR.

WHEN
WAS THE
SHAFT
LAST
SWITCHED
OUT?

ALL
RIGHT,
NEXT!
YOU!

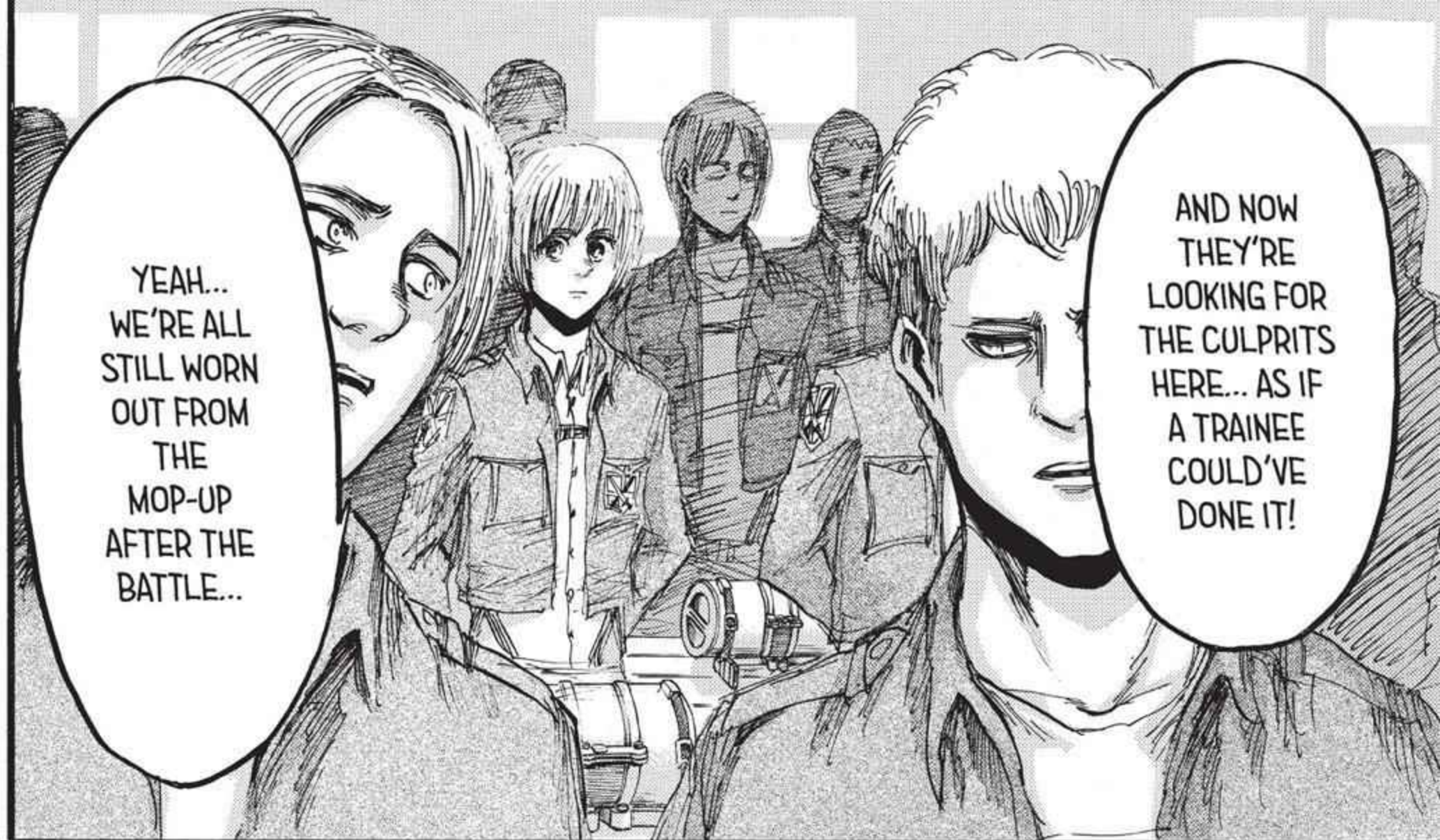


SO
YOU
CAN GET
PUNISHED
FOR
KILLING
TITANS,
HUH?

YEAH,
IT **IS**
WEIRD, BUT
THEY WERE
VALUABLE
TEST
SUBJECTS.



KRISTA
LENZ,
41ST
SQUAD.



YEAH...
WE'RE ALL
STILL WORN
OUT FROM
THE
MOP-UP
AFTER THE
BATTLE...

AND NOW
THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR
THE CULPRITS
HERE... AS IF
A TRAINEE
COULD'VE
DONE IT!



WHOEVER
DID IT MAY
HAVE SATISFIED
THEIR THIRST
FOR REVENGE,
BUT IT'S A
BLOW TO
THE HUMAN
RACE.

BUT THIS
PRACTICALLY
HELPS THE
TITANS...



...
YEAH.

YOU
CAN'T
BLAME
SOMEONE
FOR
HATING
TITANS.



BEFORE
I SAW MY
FIRST TITAN,
I REALLY
WANTED TO
JOIN THE
SURVEY
CORPS...

YOU
LOSE
YOUR
ABILITY
TO
THINK.



...!



...SO
I KINDA
GET
WHERE
THEY'RE
COMING
FROM.

I'M
AN
IDIOT
...



...
EVEN
THOUGH
WE HAVE TO
CHOOSE A
BRANCH
TODAY...

...BUT NOW...
I NEVER
WANNA SEE
ANOTHER TITAN
AS LONG AS I
LIVE.



WHAT
?!
JEAN
SAID
THAT
?



DAMN IT...
EVEN JEAN
SAID HE'S
GONNA JOIN
THE SURVEY
CORPS...



HE SAYS
HE'S
GONNA
JOIN THE
CORPS.

HEY...
ANNIE,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



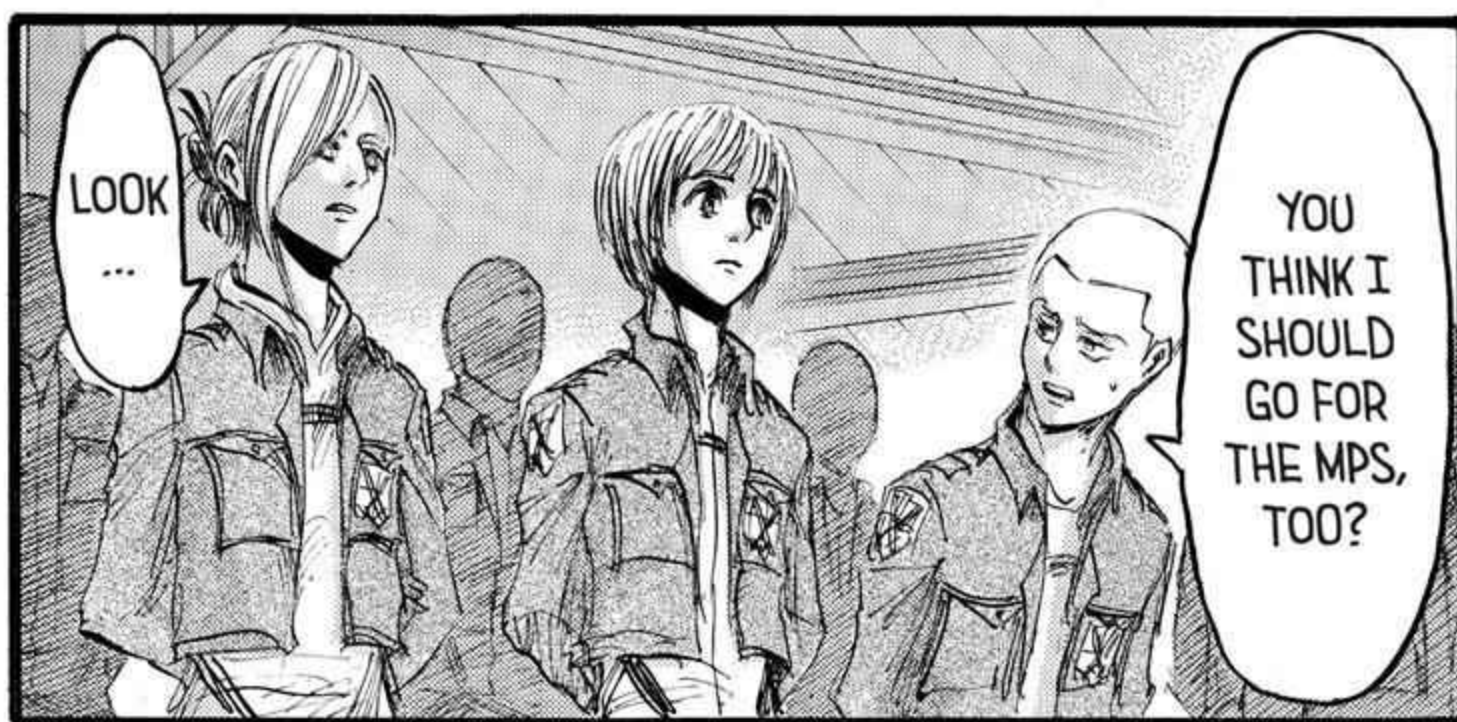
YOU'RE
GOING
WITH THE
MP
BRIGADE,
RIGHT...?

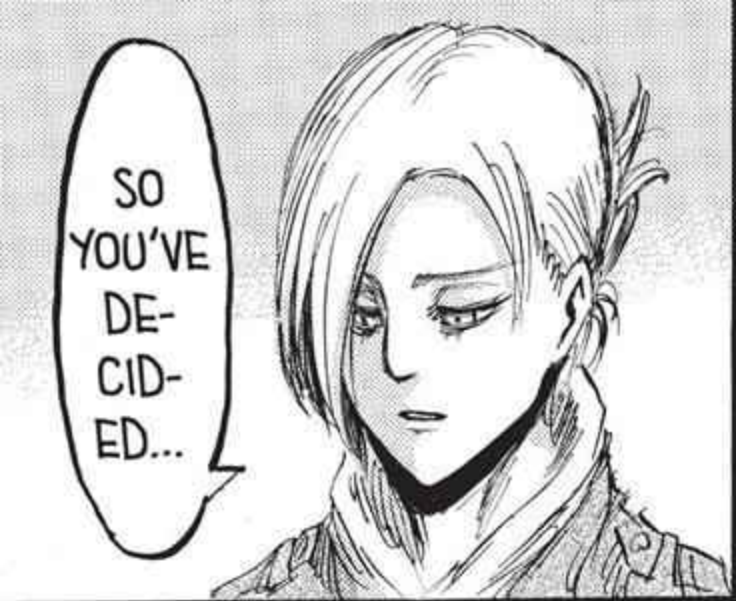
...I
SEE.

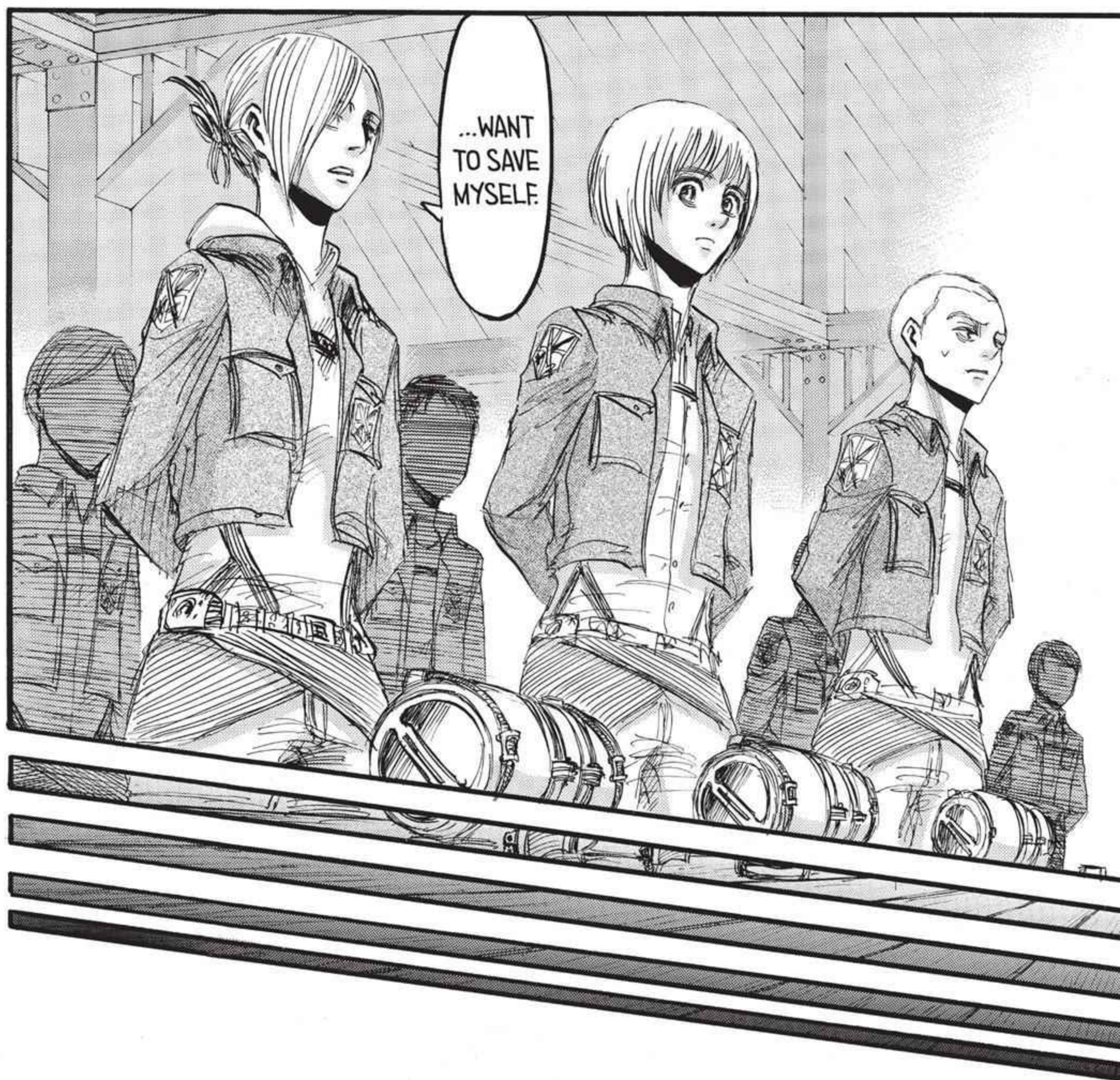


MY
MIND'S
ALREADY
MADE
UP.

...I
DON'T
THINK
ANY-
THING.







WHO
THE
HELL
DID IT,
THEN
...?

SO IN THE
END, I GUESS
THEY DIDN'T
FIND ANY
SOLDIERS WHO
USED VERTICAL
MANEUVERING
GEAR WITHOUT
AUTHORIZA-
TION.

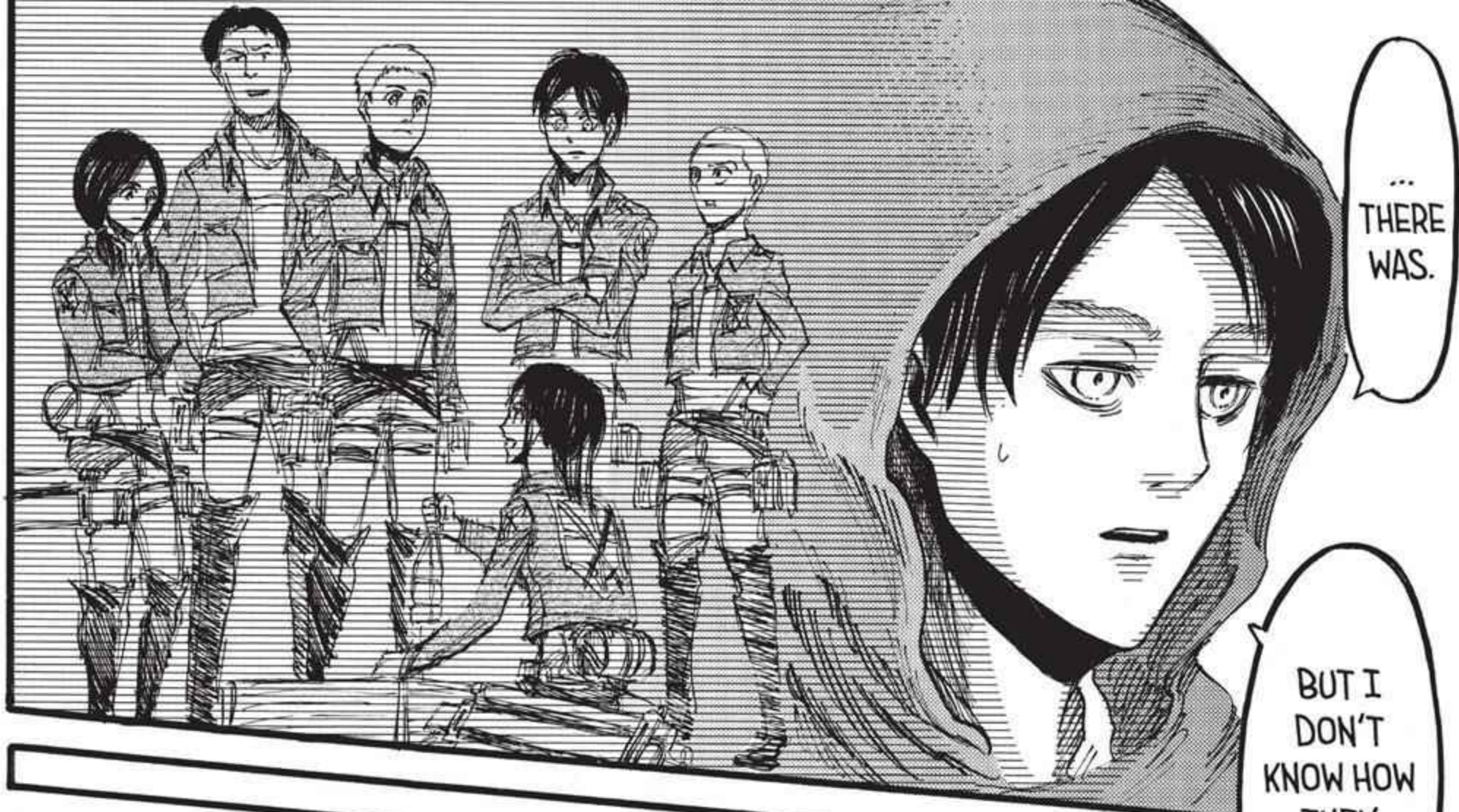
I WONDER
HOW MANY
NEWBIES
ARE GONNA
JOIN THE
CORPS ON
A WHIM...

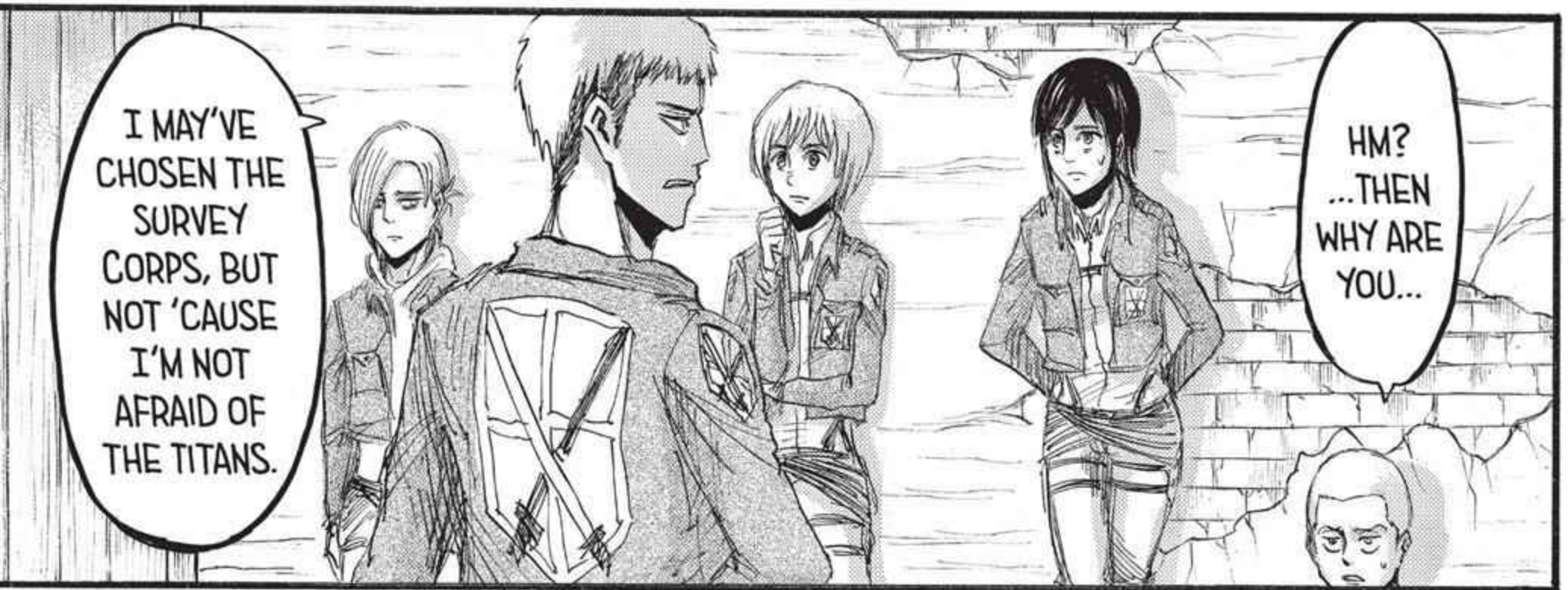
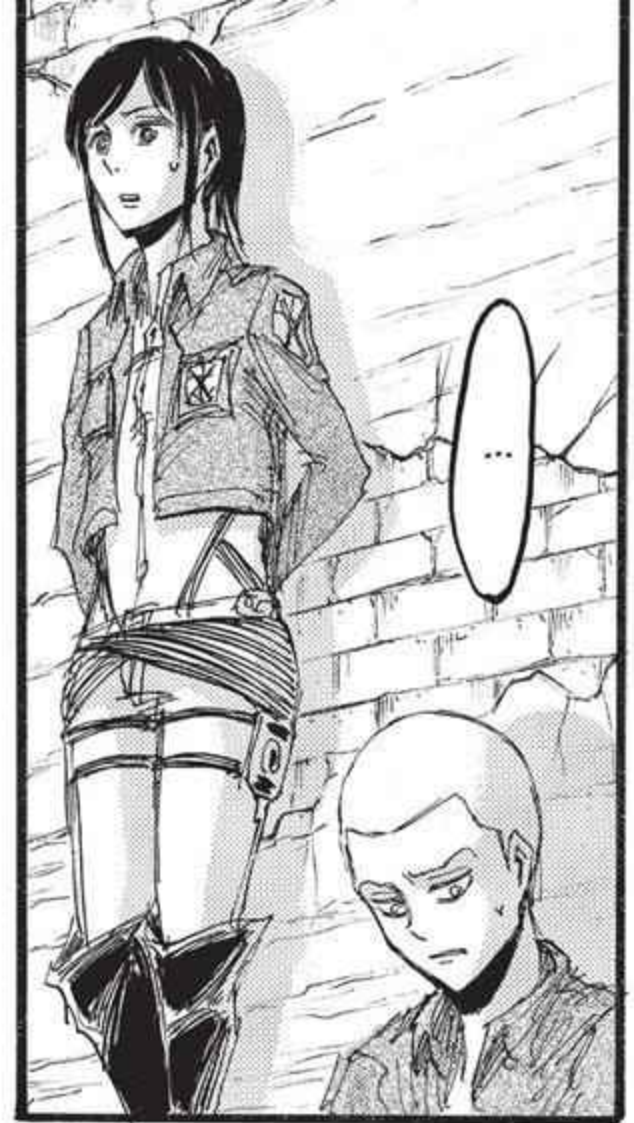
BEATS
ME... TO BE
HONEST, I'M
MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT TODAY'S
RECRUIT
SOLICITATION
CEREMONY.

N
O
...

THERE
IS.

HEY,
EREN. IS
THERE
ANYONE
FROM YOUR
TRAINING
GROUP WHO
WANTS TO
JOIN UP?

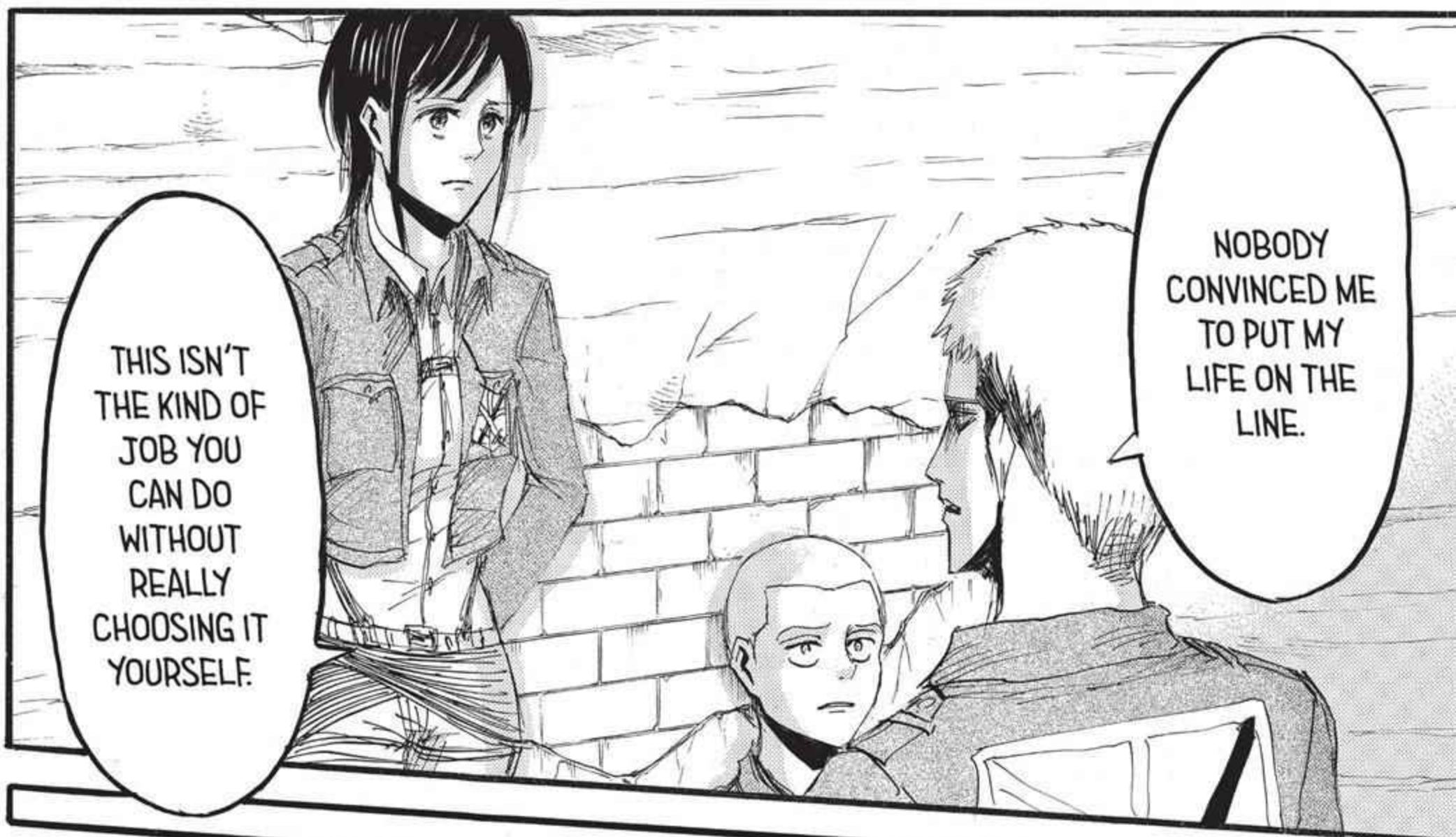






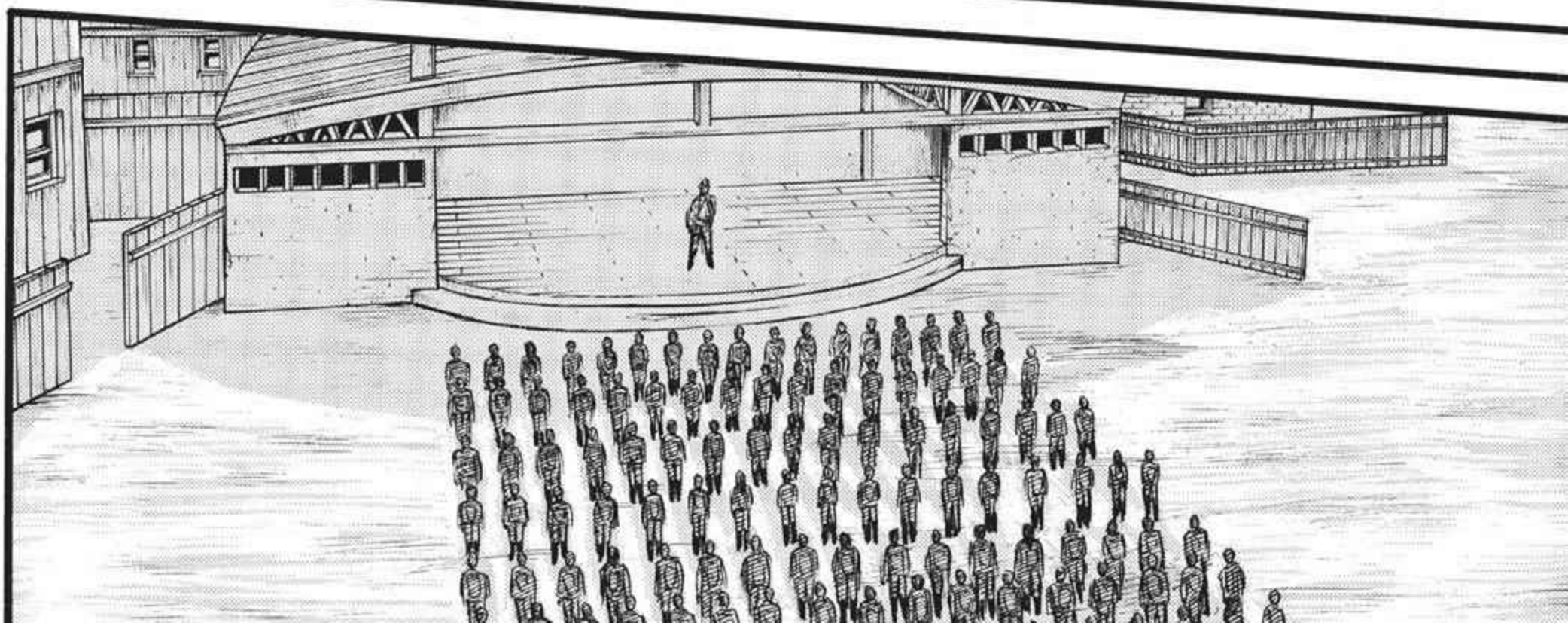
AND...

TRAINEES,
FALL IN!
FACE THE
STAGE!



THIS ISN'T
THE KIND OF
JOB YOU
CAN DO
WITHOUT
REALLY
CHOOSING IT
YOURSELF.

NOBODY
CONVINCED ME
TO PUT MY
LIFE ON THE
LINE.



TODAY, YOU CHOOSE
WHICH DIVISION TO
JOIN. THE REASON
I'M UP HERE IS TO
INVITE YOU TO
BECOME A PART OF
THE SURVEY CORPS.

I AM SURVEY
CORPS
COMMANDER
ERWIN SMITH.

THE KING
HAS GRANTED
ME AUTHORITY
OVER ALL
SURVEY CORPS
ACTIVITY.

I'M SURE
NOTHING ELSE IN
YOUR LIVES CAME
CLOSE TO IT.
THOUGH YOU'RE
TRAINEES, YOU
EXPERIENCED
SACRIFICE.

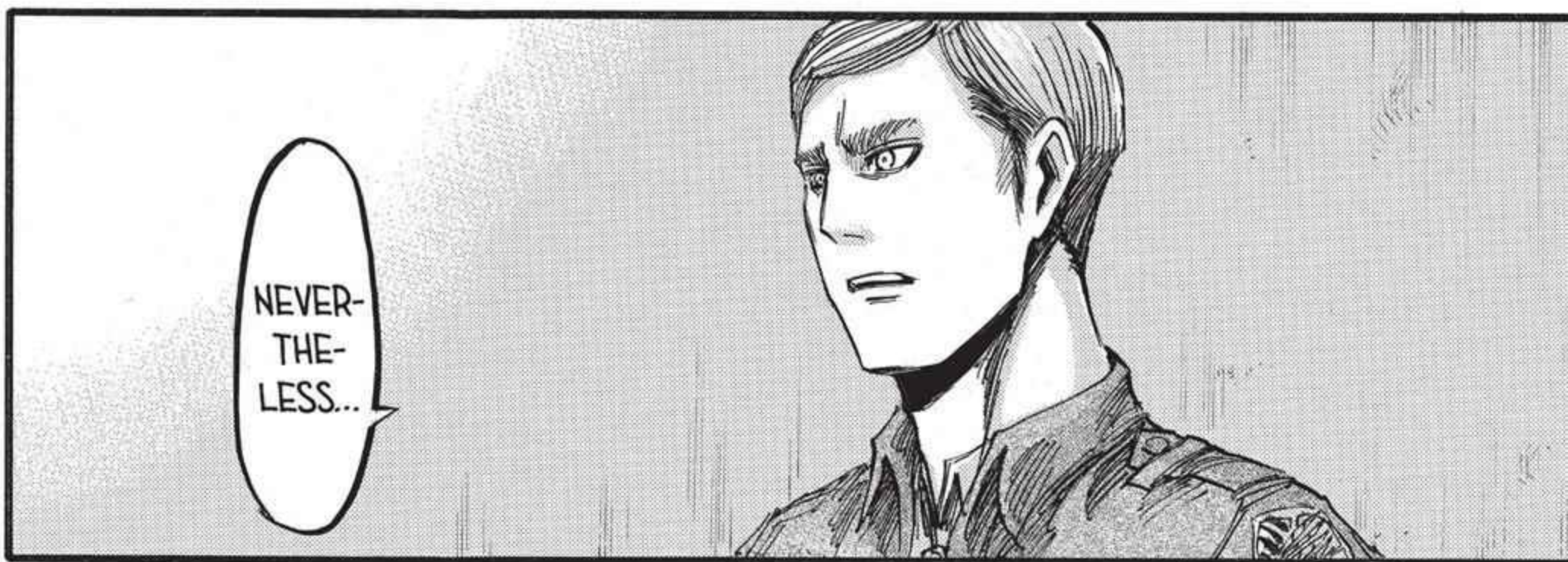
BUT I
SHOULD WARN
YOU. IN THE
RECENT TITAN
ATTACK,
EVERYONE HERE
EXPERIENCED
WHAT THE
AVERAGE
EXCURSION
OUTSIDE IS
LIKE.



...YOUR OWN
LIMITS, AND
THE TERROR
OF THE
TITANS.



AS A
RESULT,
I'M
SURE
YOU
CAME TO
KNOW...



NEVER-
THE-
LESS...



BY NOW,
EVERYONE
IS AWARE
OF...



...THE HUMAN
RACE HAS
ADVANCED
TOWARDS
VICTORY LIKE
NEVER
BEFORE.

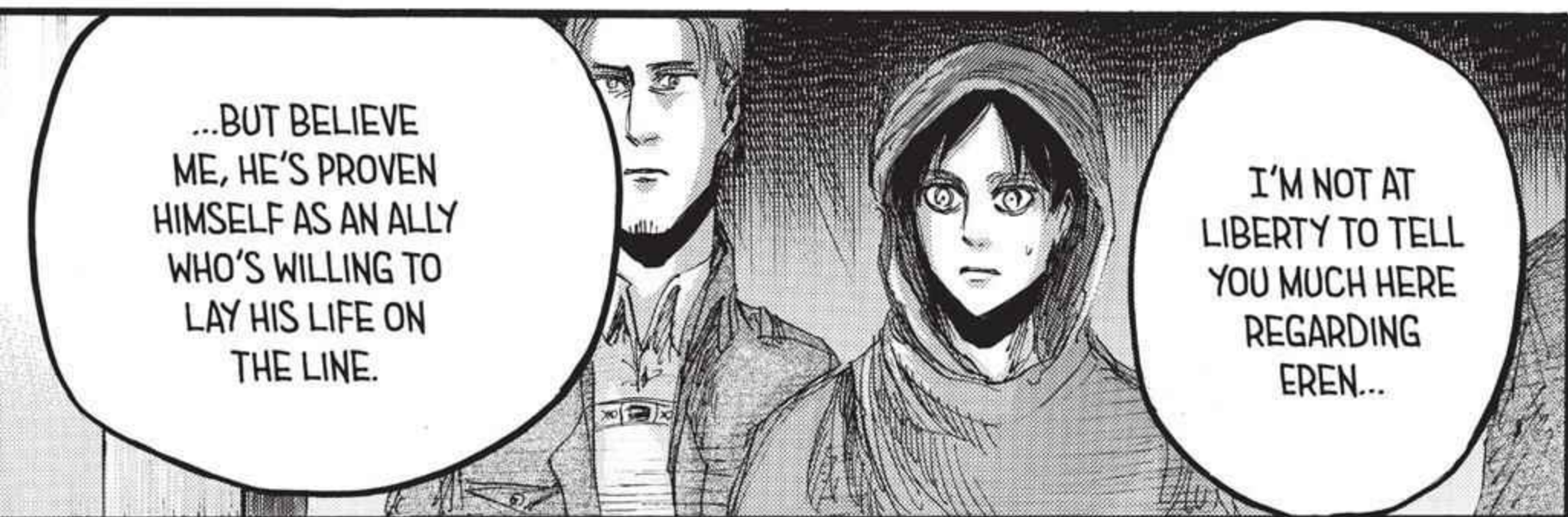
WHILE
IT'S TRUE
WE
SUFFERED
HEAVY
LOSSES IN
THIS
ATTACK...



...AND
WE HAVE
OBTAINED A
PATH TO
UNDER-
STANDING
THE TRUE
NATURE OF
THE TITANS.

THROUGH HIS
ACTIONS AND
ALL OF YOURS,
THE TITAN
INCURSION
WAS HALTED...

...THE
EXISTENCE
OF EREN
YEAGER.



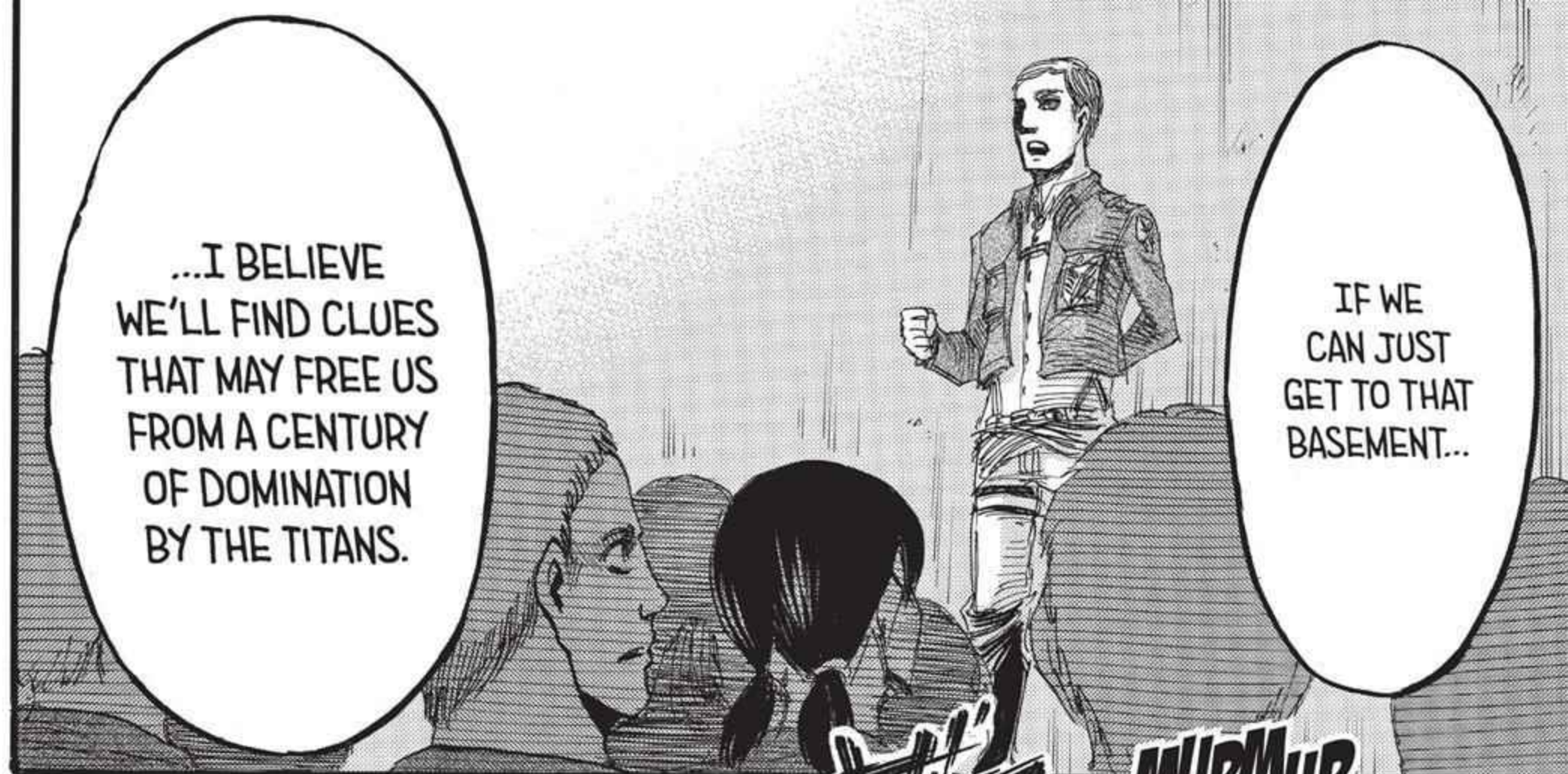
...BUT BELIEVE
ME, HE'S PROVEN
HIMSELF AS AN ALLY
WHO'S WILLING TO
LAY HIS LIFE ON
THE LINE.

I'M NOT AT
LIBERTY TO TELL
YOU MUCH HERE
REGARDING
EREN...



...THERE ARE
ANSWERS
ABOUT THE
TITANS THAT
EVEN HE
DOESN'T
HAVE.

AND WE
ALSO KNOW
THAT IN THE
BASEMENT
OF HIS OLD
HOUSE IN
SHIGANSHINA
DISTRICT...



...I BELIEVE
WE'LL FIND CLUES
THAT MAY FREE US
FROM A CENTURY
OF DOMINATION
BY THE TITANS.

IF WE
CAN JUST
GET TO THAT
BASEMENT...

MURMUR



...BUT
MAKING THAT
INFORMATION
PUBLIC...?

I KNOW
THEY
WANT TO
RECRUIT
SOL-
DIERS...



HIS
BASE-
MENT
...?



IF WE'RE
ON THE VERGE
OF FINDING OUT
WHAT THE TITANS
REALLY ARE,
THEN THE
SITUATION MUST
NOT BE
THAT BAD!!

ARE WE
ALREADY
THAT
CLOSE
...?



HE MUST
HAVE AN
AGENDA...

WAIT...



...



AND
YET
...

MURMUR
MURMUR

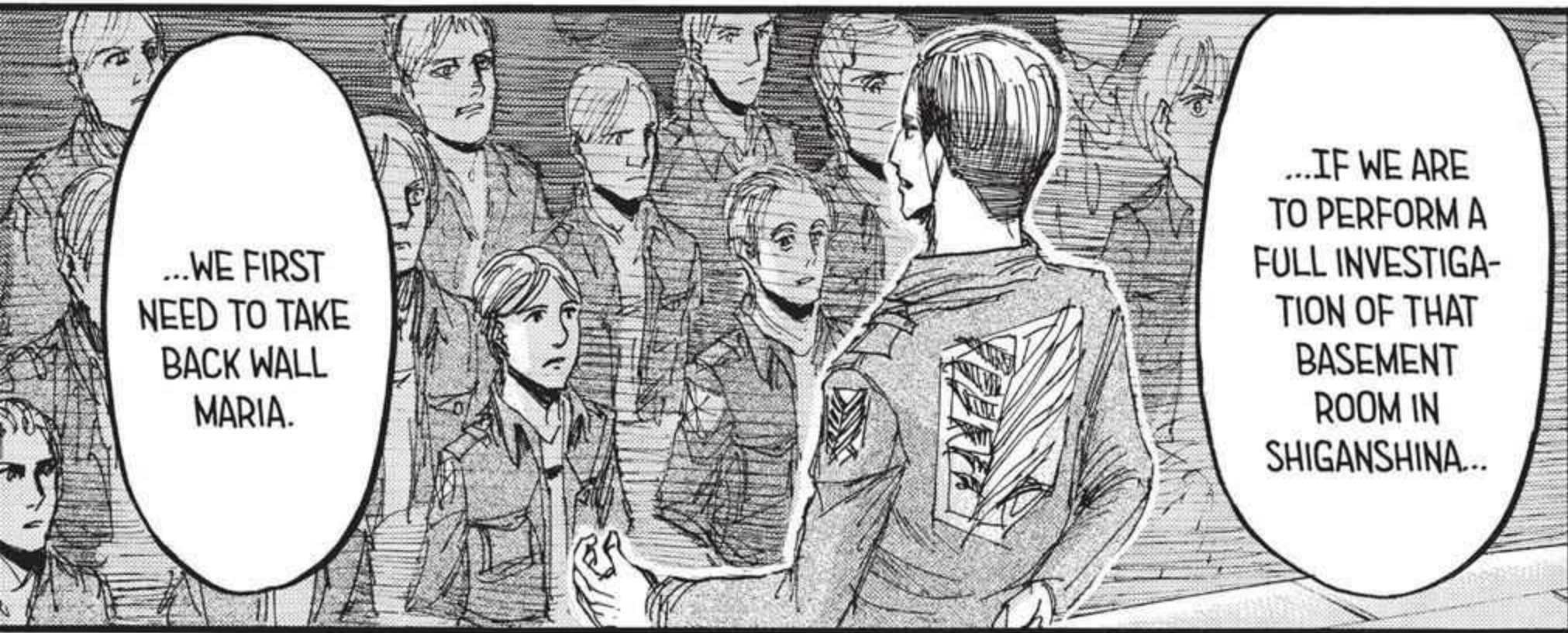


H M ?

...
LOOKING
AT?

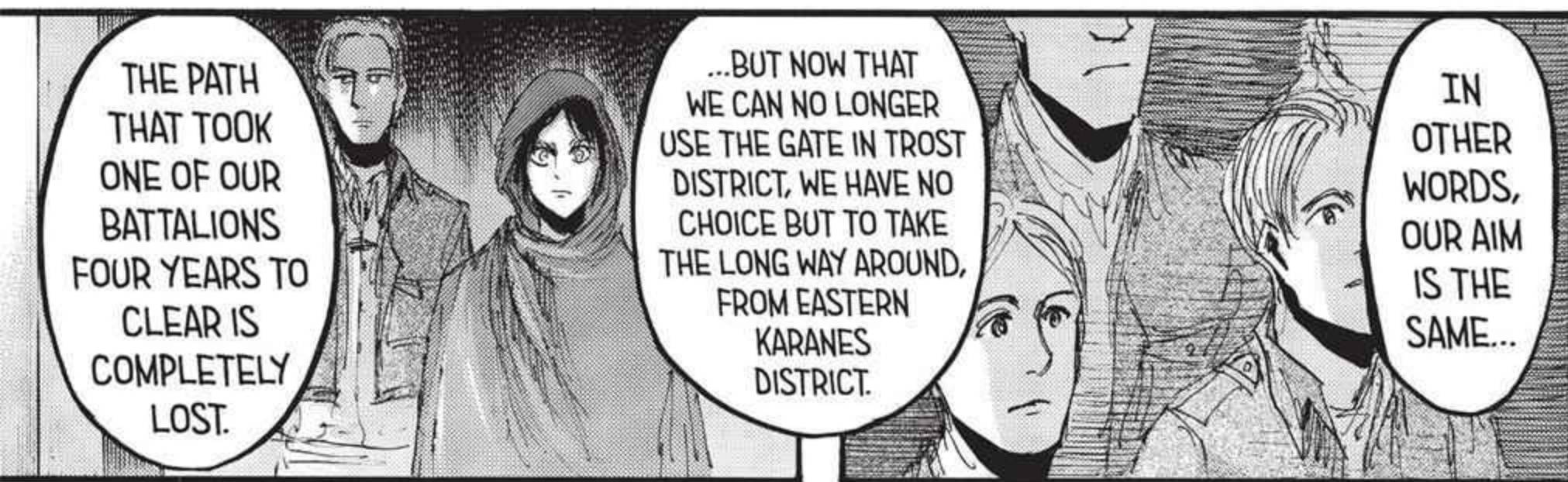


WHAT'S
THE
COM-
MAND-
ER
...



...WE FIRST
NEED TO TAKE
BACK WALL
MARIA.

...IF WE ARE
TO PERFORM A
FULL INVESTIGA-
TION OF THAT
BASEMENT
ROOM IN
SHIGANSHINA...



THE PATH
THAT TOOK
ONE OF OUR
BATTALIONS
FOUR YEARS TO
CLEAR IS
COMPLETELY
LOST.

...BUT NOW THAT
WE CAN NO LONGER
USE THE GATE IN TROST
DISTRICT, WE HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO TAKE
THE LONG WAY AROUND,
FROM EASTERN
KARANES
DISTRICT.

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
OUR AIM
IS THE
SAME...

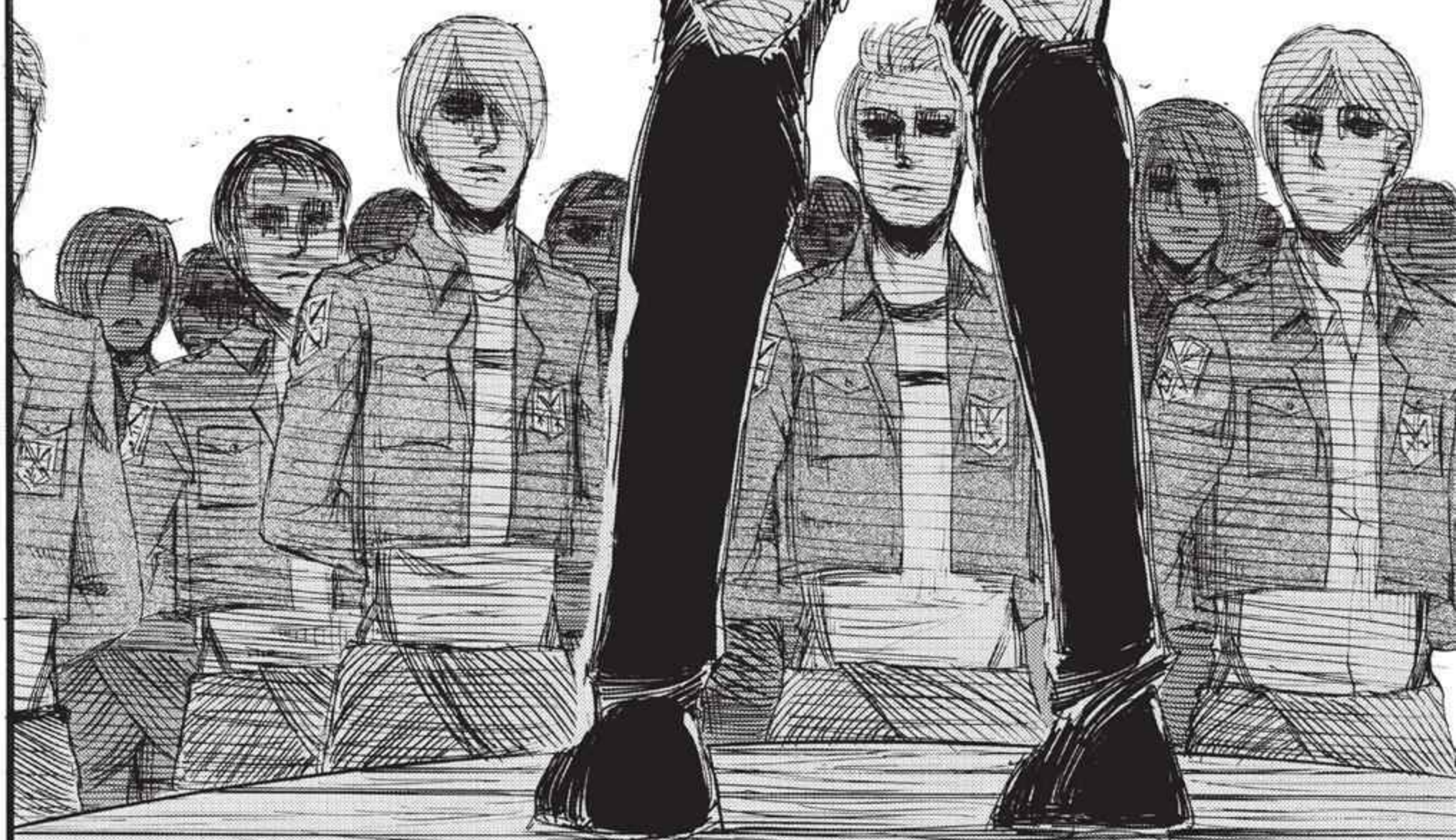


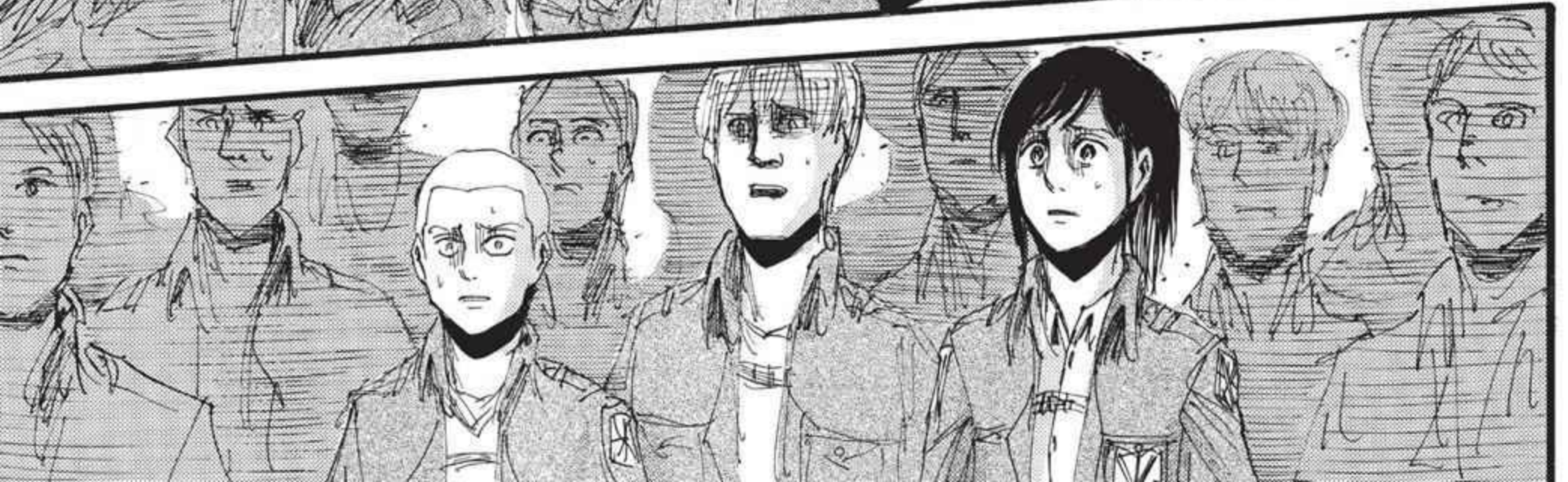
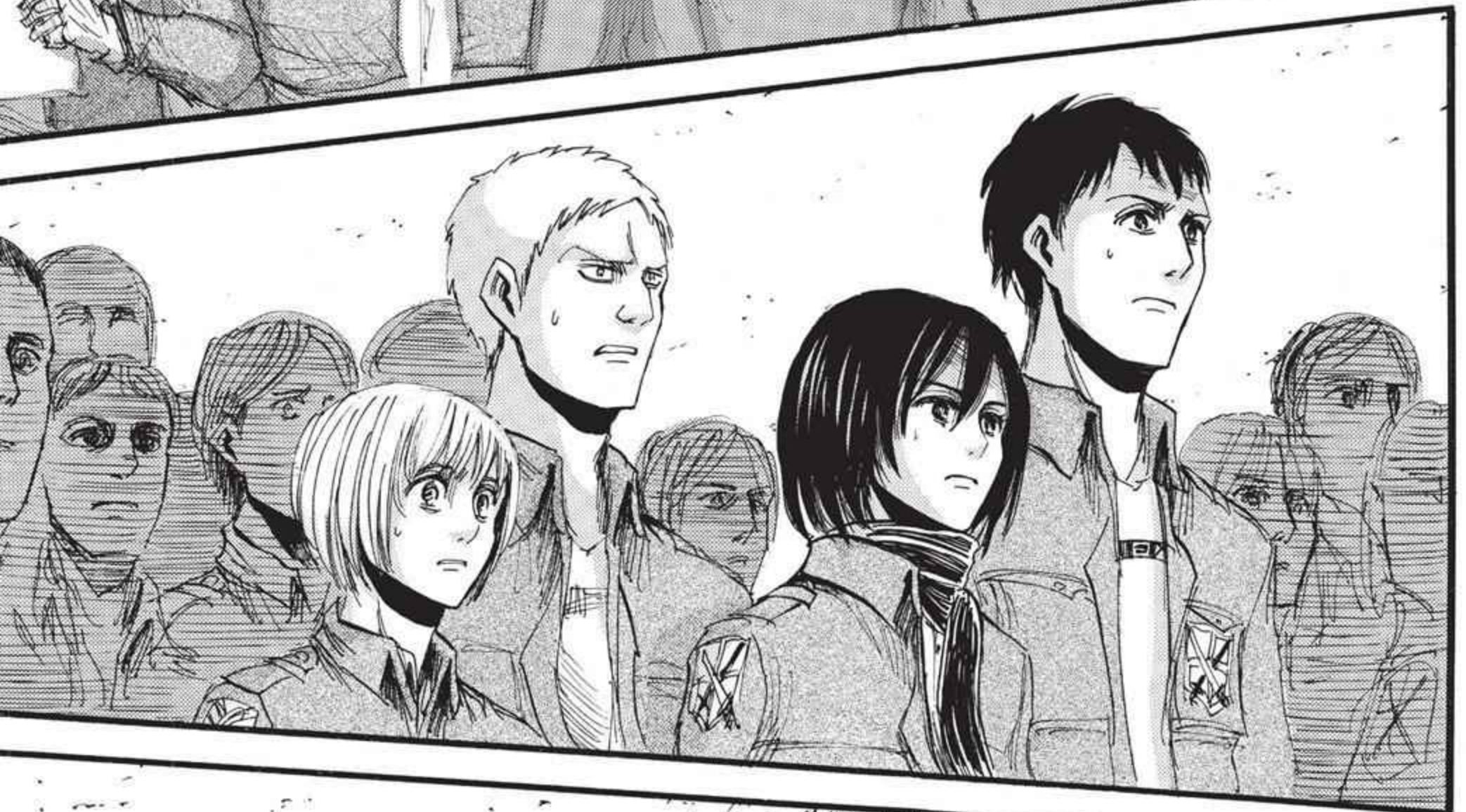
THAT'S
90% IN
FOUR
YEARS.

DURING THOSE
FOUR YEARS, OVER
90% OF THE
SURVEY CORPS
SOLDIERS DIED.

...WOULD
MEAN FIVE TIMES
THE CASUALTIES
AND 20 YEARS OF
WORK. THOSE
AREN'T REALISTIC
FIGURES.

EVEN
IN THE BEST
CASE, SENDING
ANOTHER
BATTALION TO
WALL MARIA...





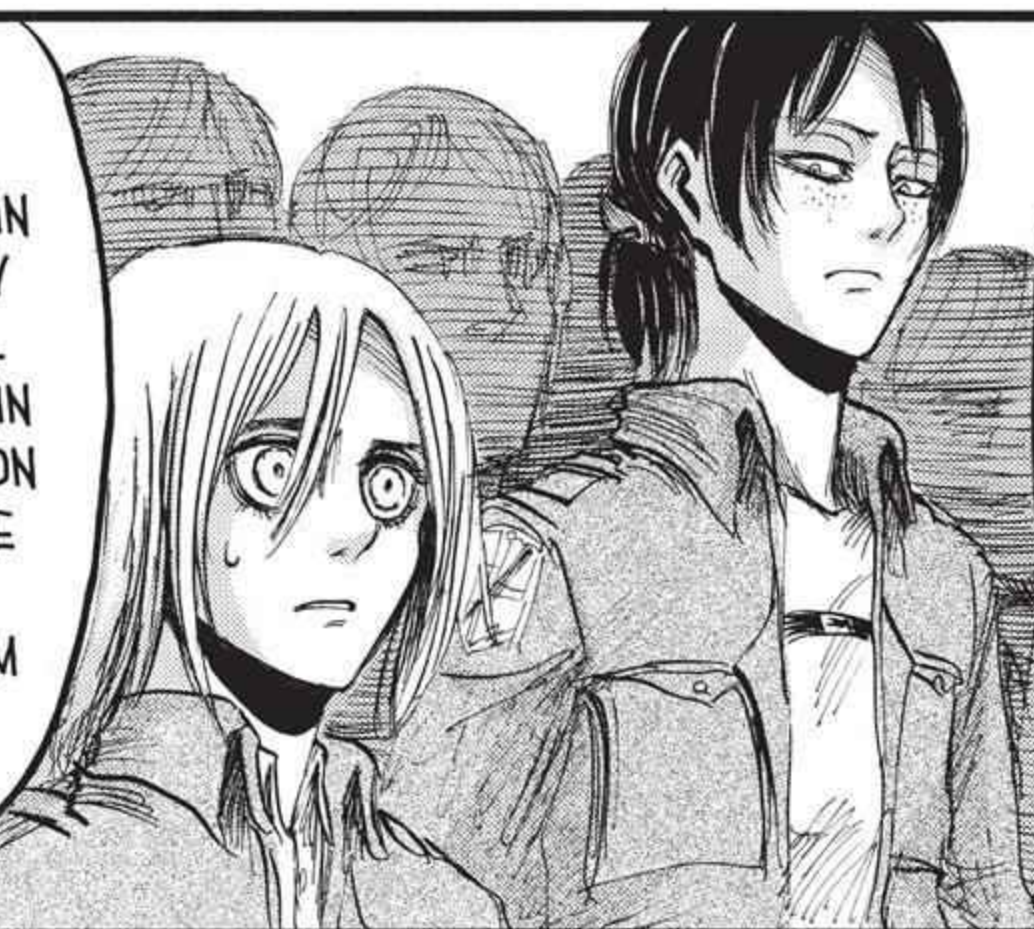
SINCE MANY
ARE KILLED
EVERY TIME
WE GO OUT, WE
SUFFER FROM
A CHRONIC
SHORTAGE OF
PERSONNEL.



THE SURVEY
CORPS IS
ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR
TALENTED
PEOPLE.

A SUPPLY
ROUTE NEEDS
TO BE PUT IN
PLACE AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

THOSE OF
YOU WHO JOIN
THE SURVEY
CORPS WILL
PARTICIPATE IN
AN EXPEDITION
BEYOND THE
WALL ONE
MONTH FROM
NOW.



I
WON'T
HIDE
IT.

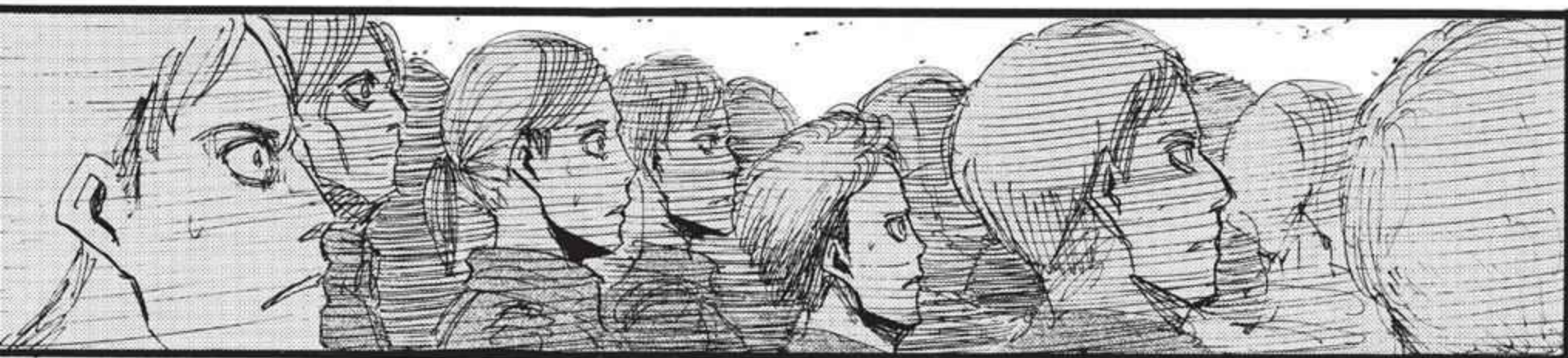
BUT THOSE
WHO DO GET
THROUGH IT GO
ON TO BECOME
SUPERIOR
SOLDIERS WITH
A HIGH SURVIVAL
RATE.



I BELIEVE
THE MORTALITY
RATE FOR NEW
RECRUITS GOING
ON THEIR FIRST
JOURNEY
OUTSIDE IS
ABOUT 50%.

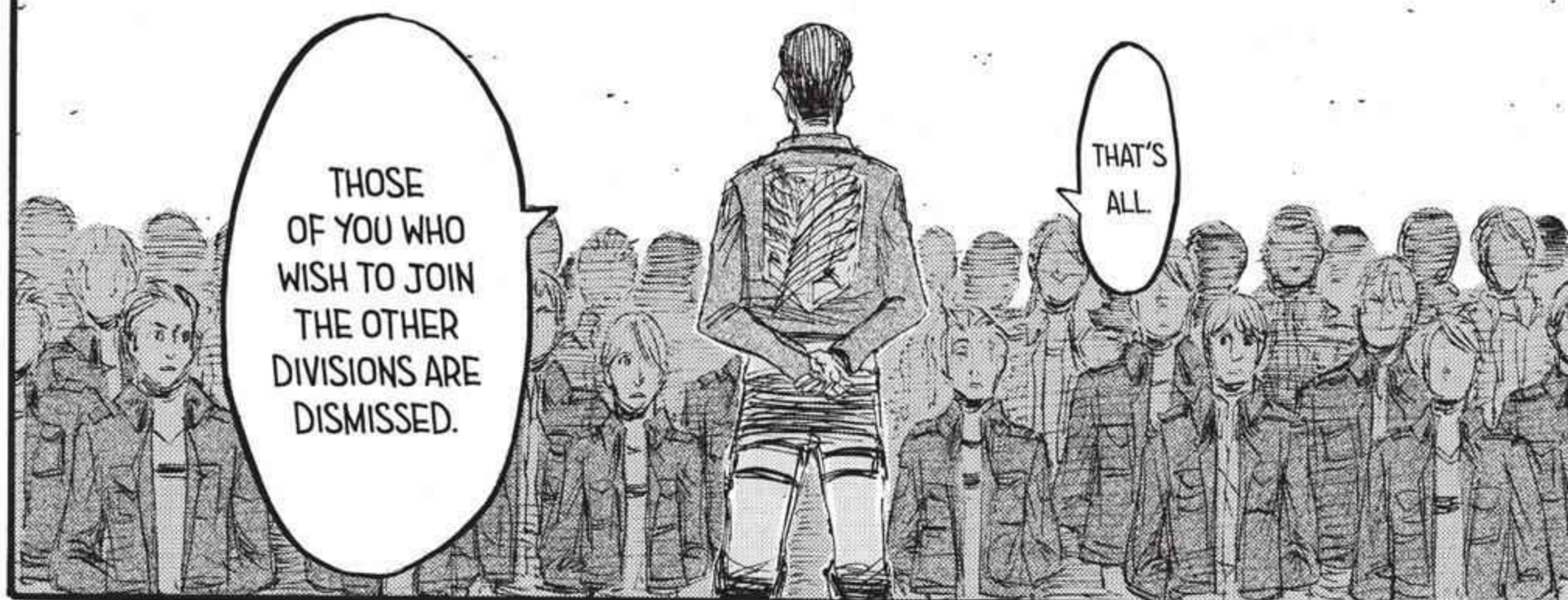


NOW YOU KNOW
THE DISMAL STATE
OF AFFAIRS. THOSE
OF YOU WHO ARE
STILL WILLING TO
PUT YOUR LIVES
ON THE LINE,
REMAIN HERE.



ASK
YOURSELVES IF
YOU REALLY
HAVE IT IN YOU
TO SACRIFICE
YOUR LIFE FOR
HUMANITY.

LET ME
REITERATE... THE
MAJORITY OF THE
PEOPLE WHO STAY
HERE AND ENTER
THE SURVEY CORPS
WILL LIKELY DIE.



THOSE
OF YOU WHO
WISH TO JOIN
THE OTHER
DIVISIONS ARE
DISMISSED.

THAT'S
ALL.



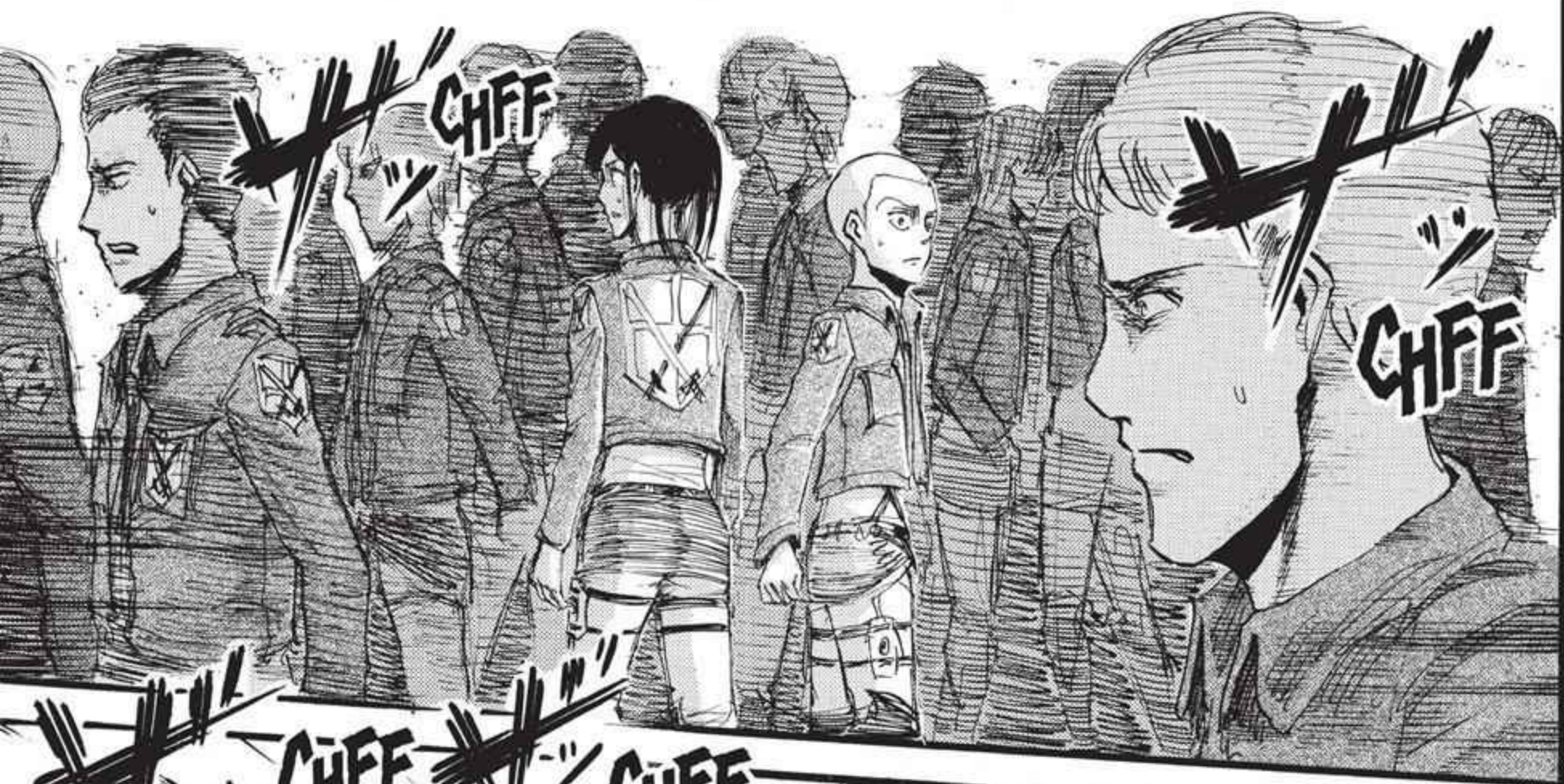
CHFF CHFF

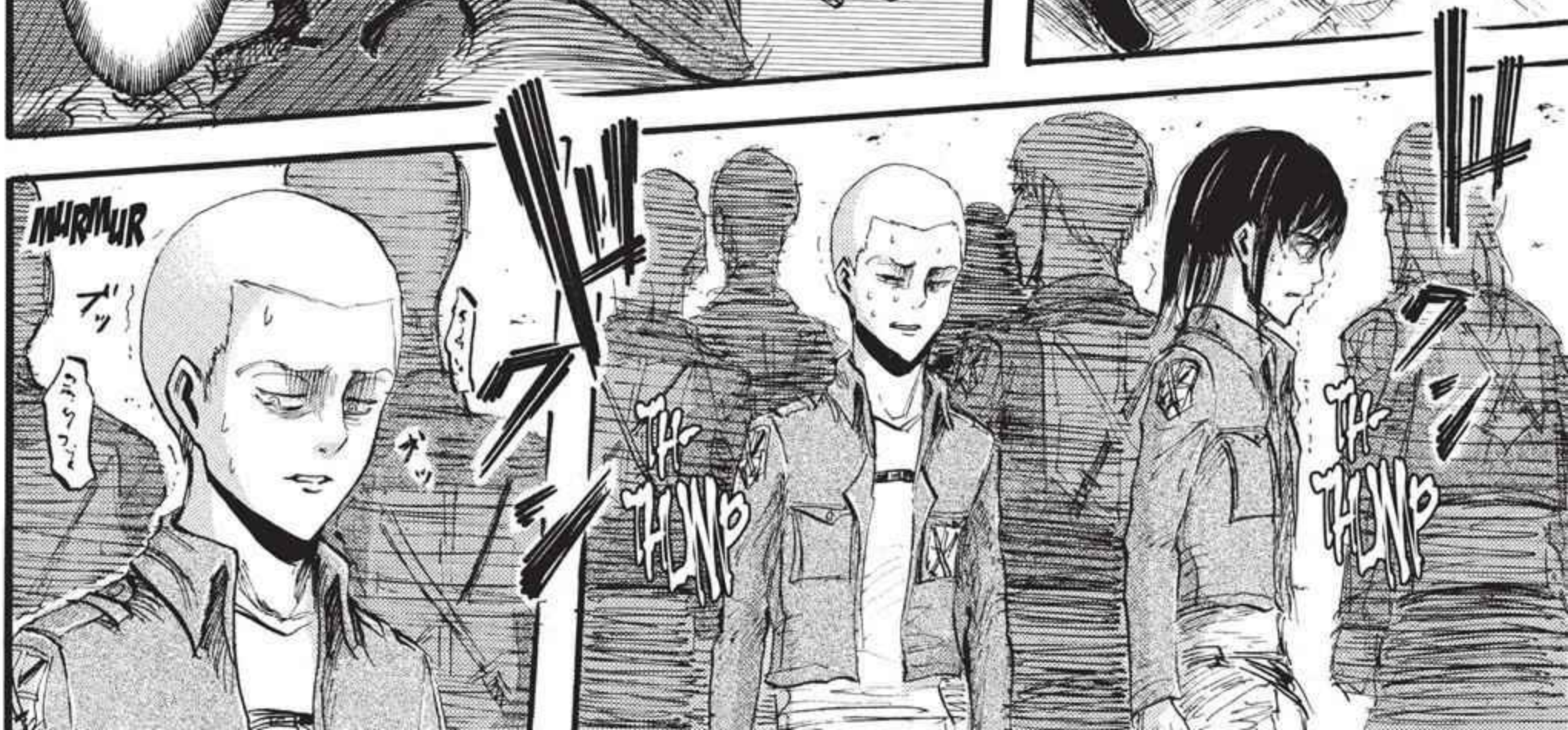


THE
TRAINEES
THAT ARE
LEFT MUST
FEEL LIKE
THEY'VE
BEEN
THROUGH
THE
WRINGER.



COM-
MANDER,
DID YOU
HAVE TO BE
THAT
INTIMIDAT-
ING?







IF I BECAME AN MP...
...EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WOULD RESPECT ME.

...MOM WOULD BE SO HAPPY...



THAT'S RIGHT...

I LEFT THE VILLAGE TO BECOME A MILITARY POLICE OFFICER...



WE'VE SEEN IT...



WE ALREADY KNOW...

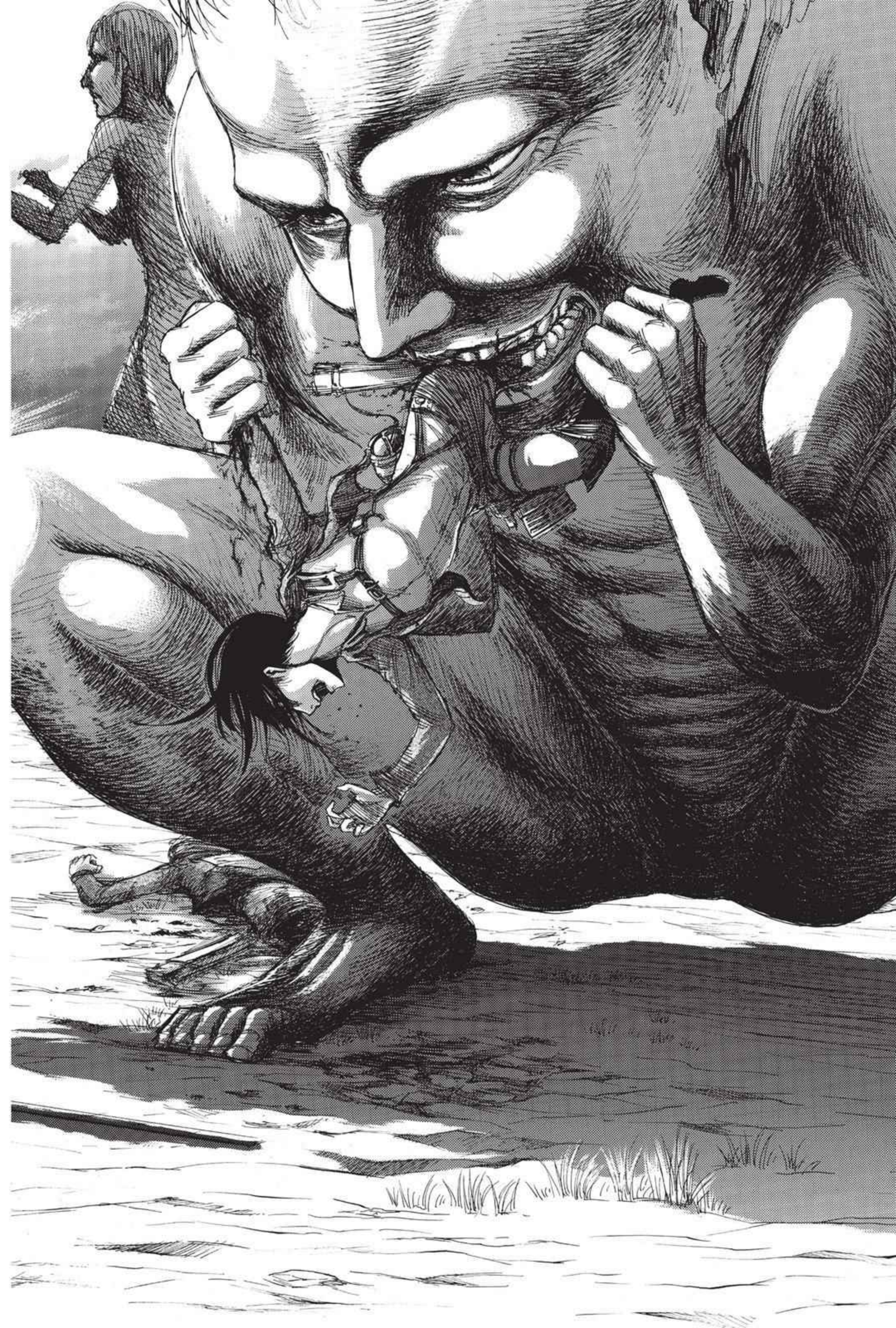
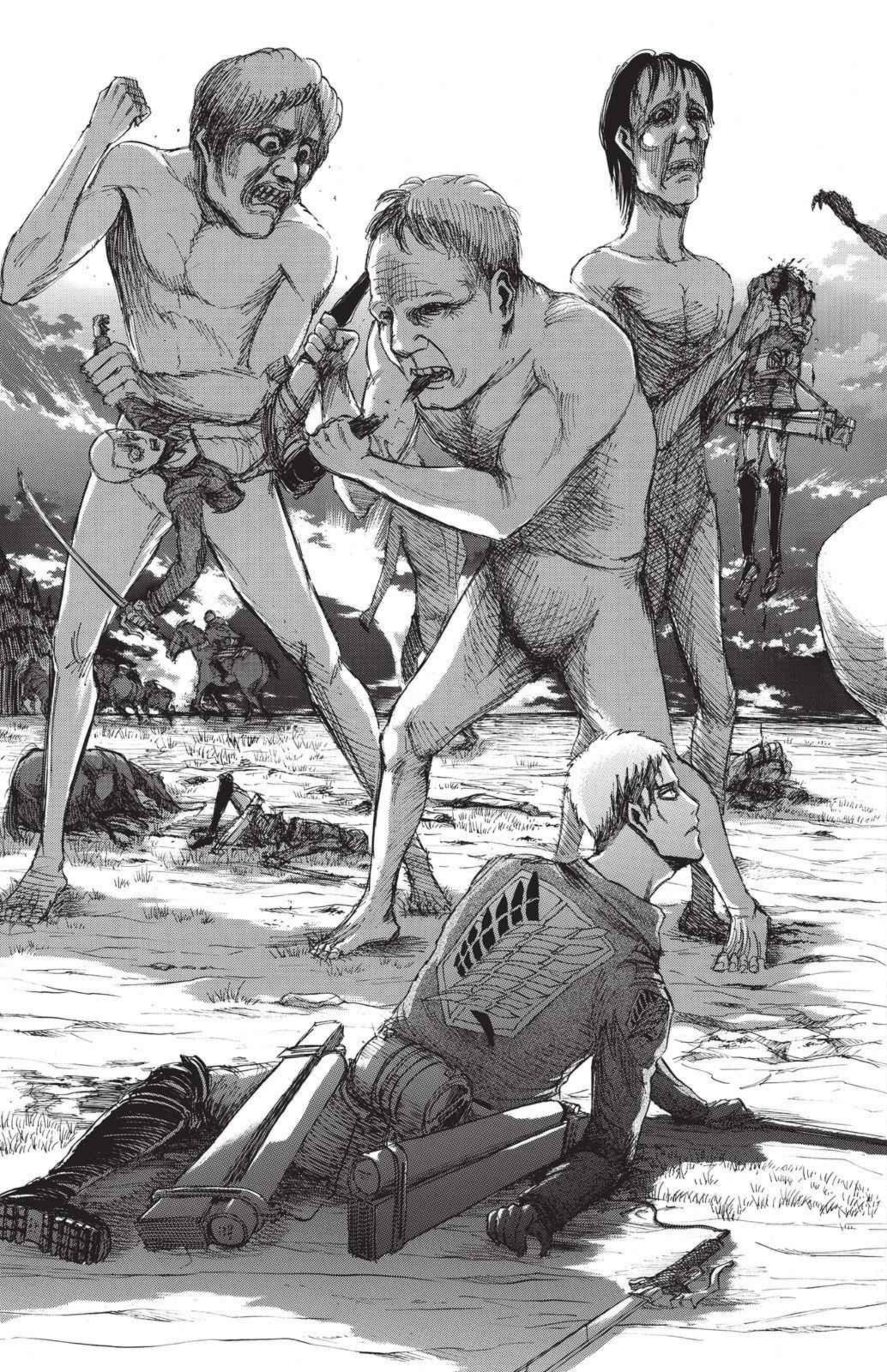


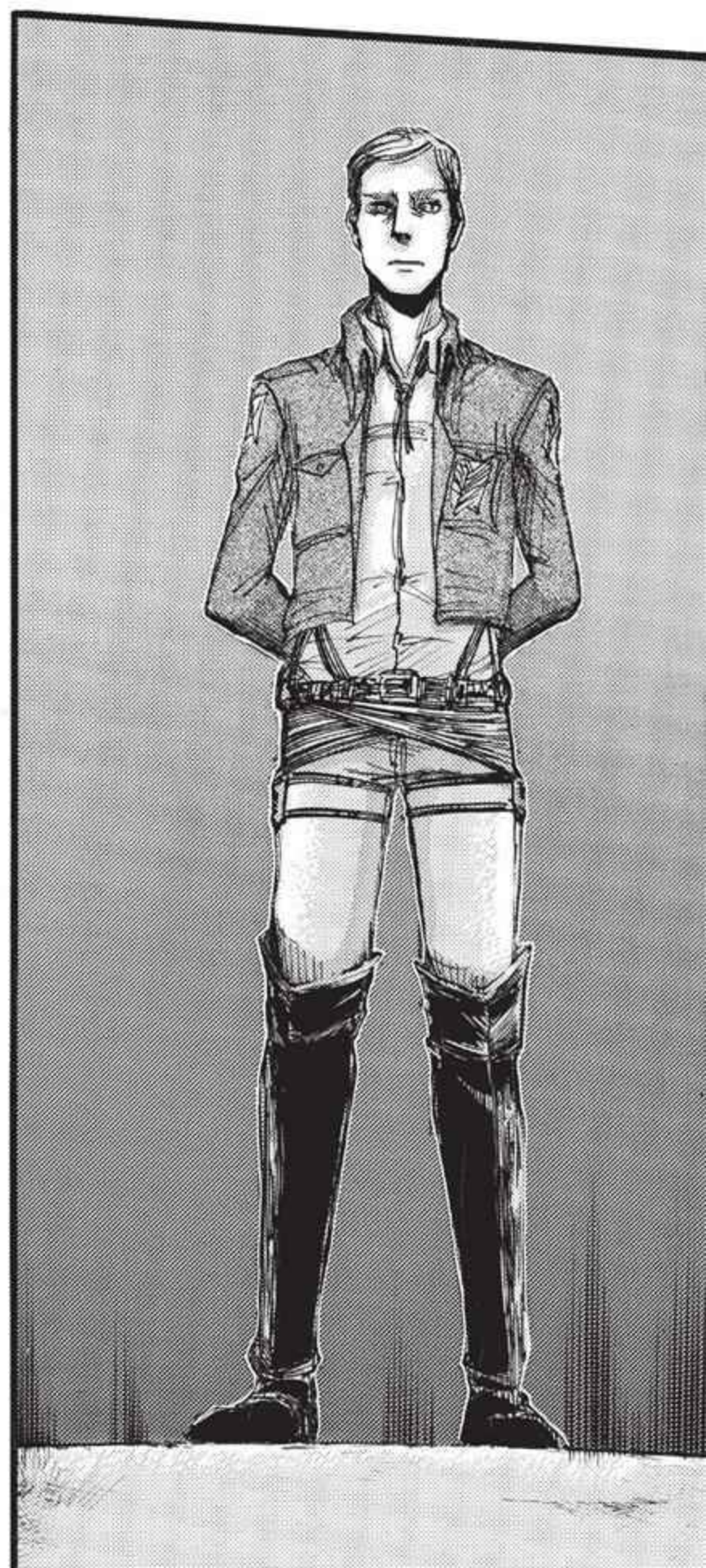
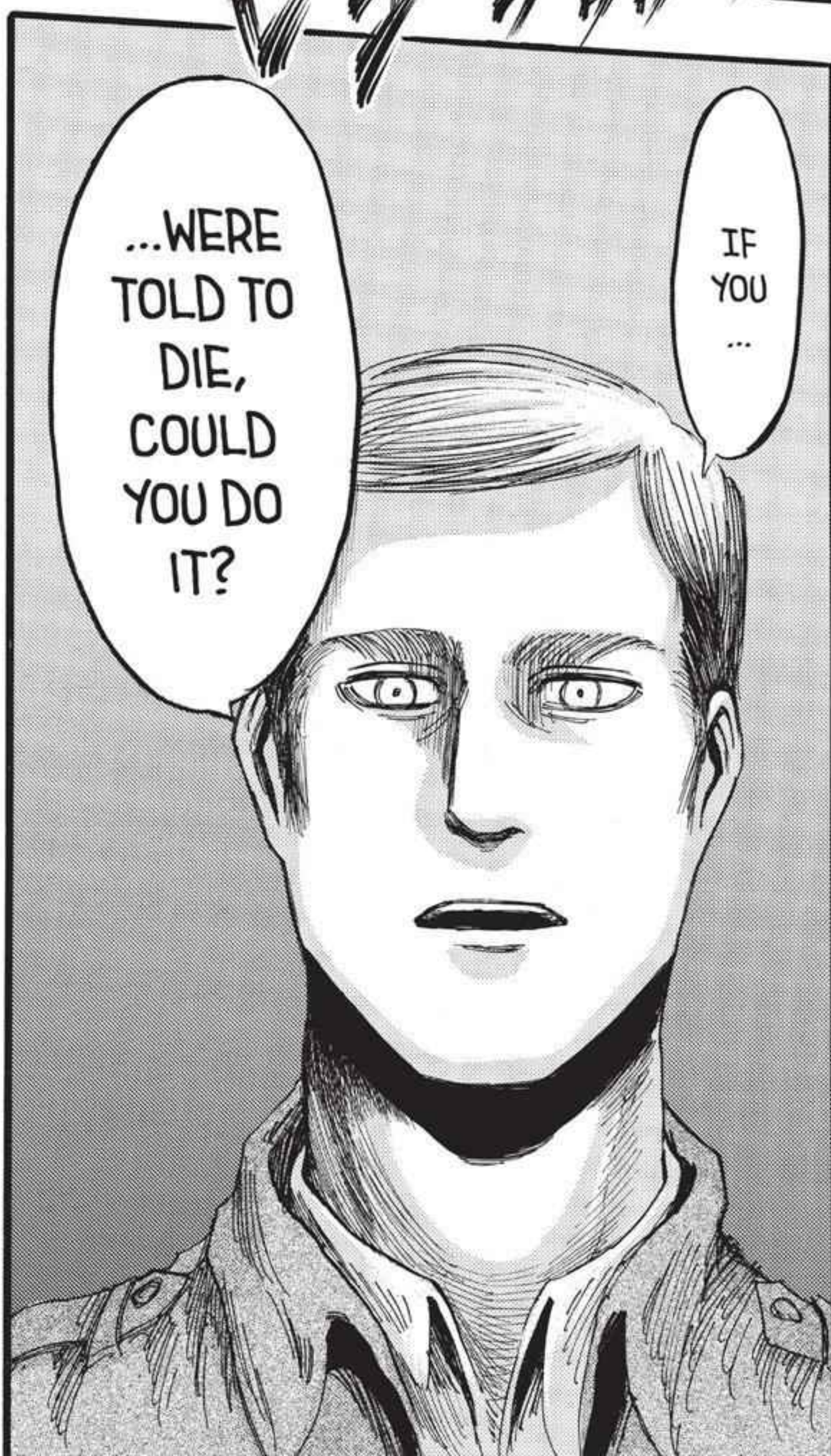
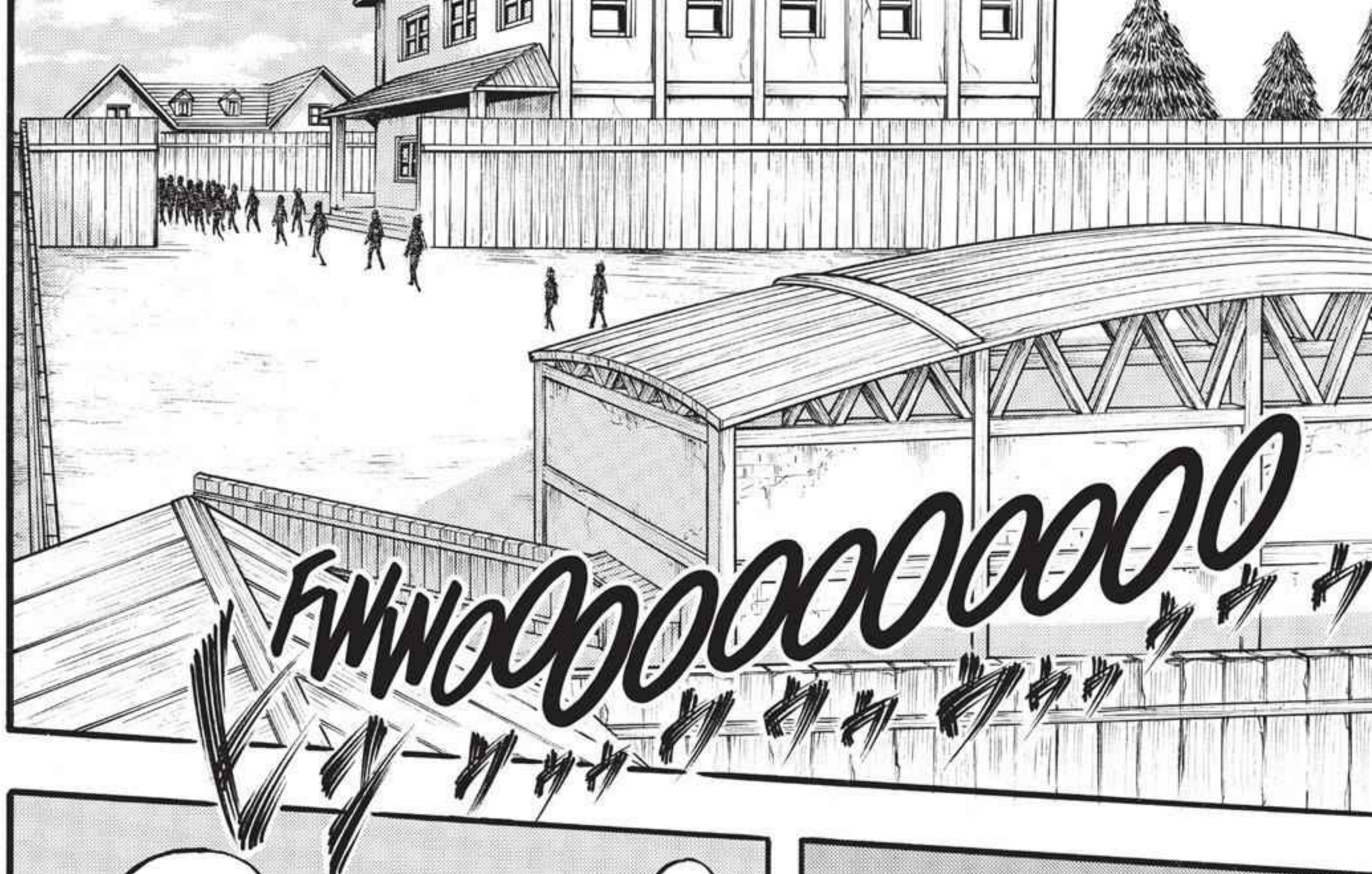
...EAT PEOPLE...



WE'VE SEEN HOW TITANS...









YES,
SIR!!





EV-
ERY-
ONE...

...



THE
SURVEY
CORPS,
OF ALL
THINGS
...

THIS
IS THE
WORST.
DAMN
IT...



AHHH
...
SHIT
...

I WANNA
GO BACK
TO THE
VILLAGE...



I'M
SCAR-
ED...

...UNH
... I
HATE
THIS...

I JUST
DON'T
CARE
ANY-
MORE...

A H H
...



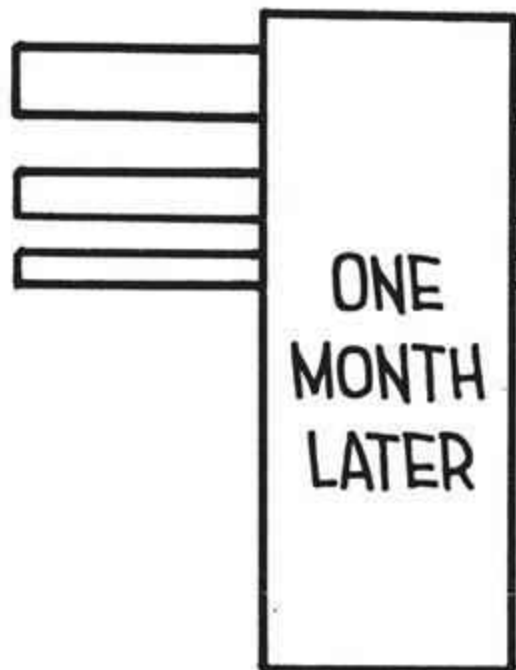
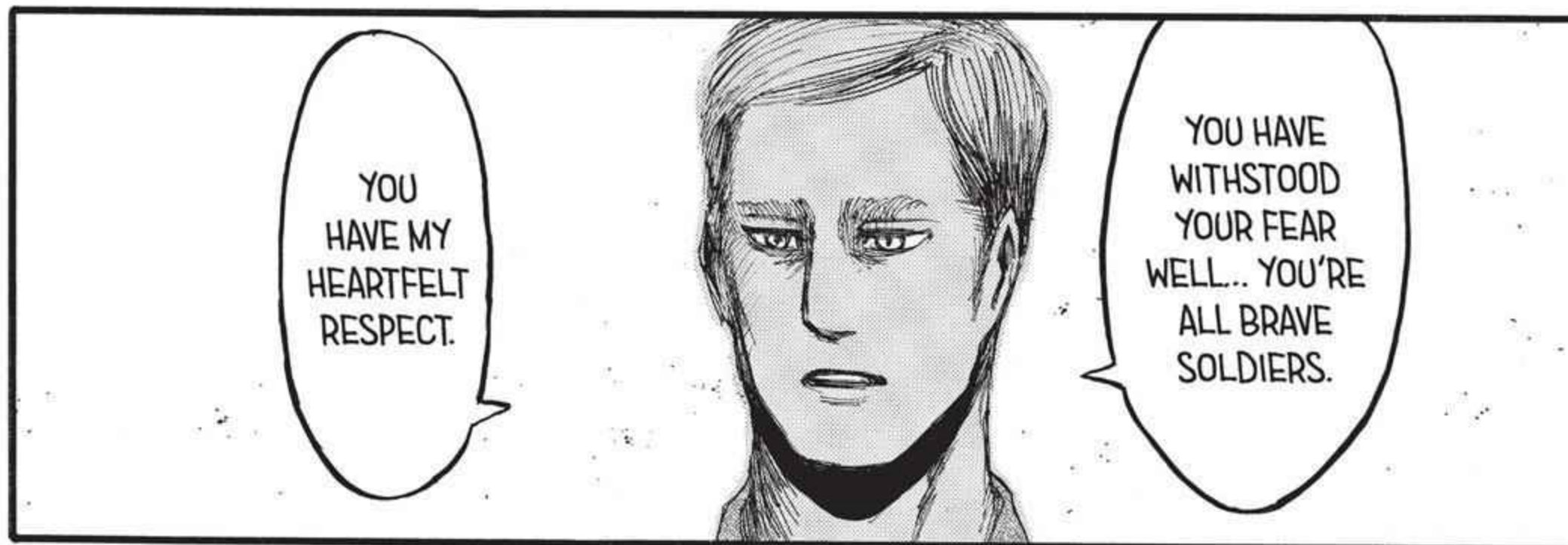


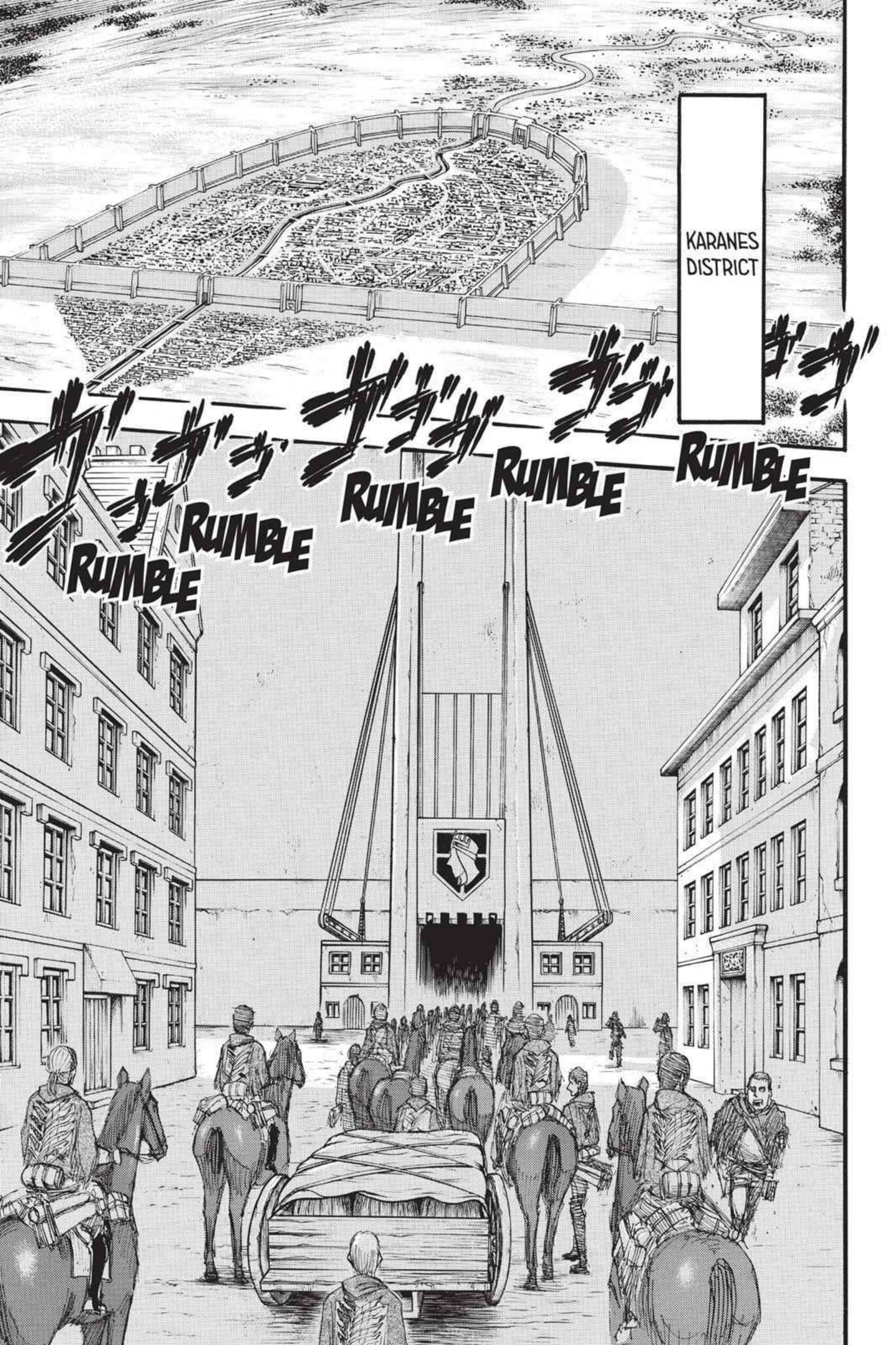
SHIVER
ふる



IF
YOU'RE
GONNA CRY
HERE, YOU
MIGHT AS
WELL
QUIT.







KARANES
DISTRICT

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



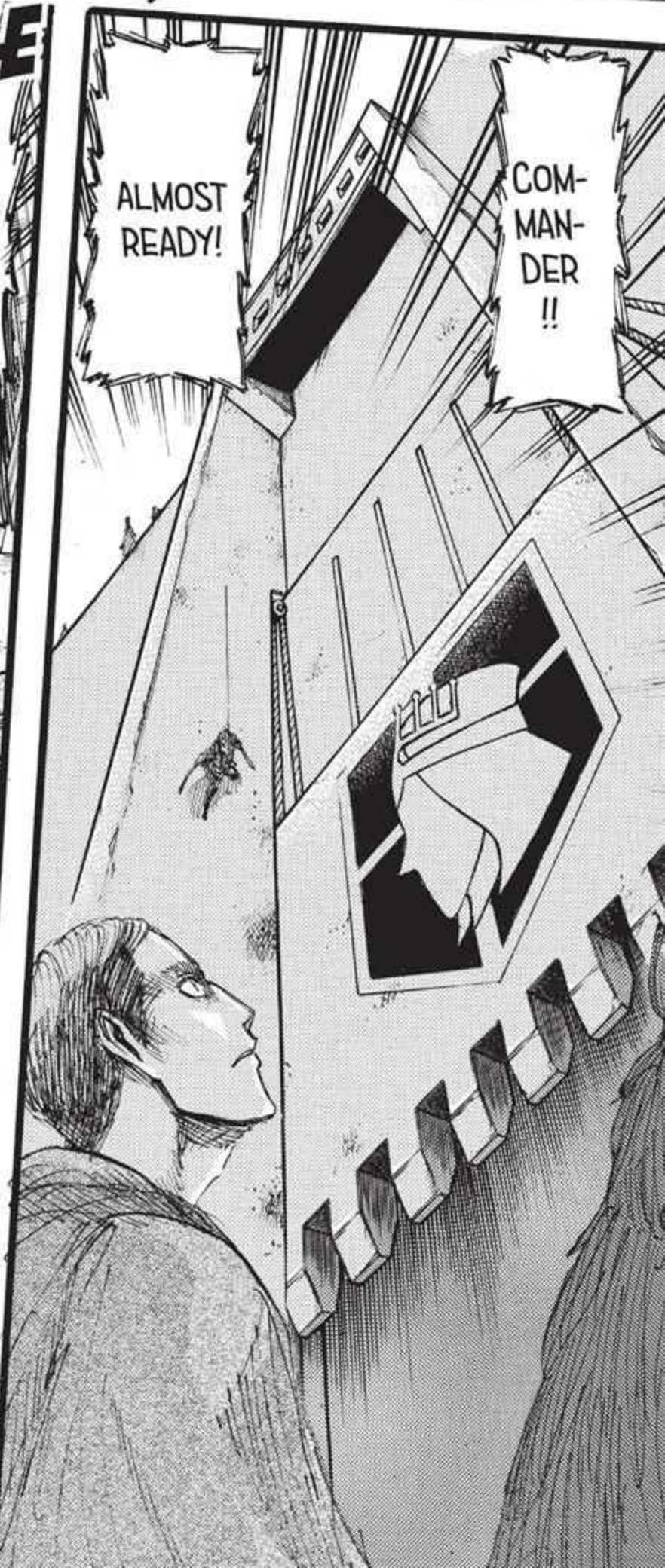
WE LED
THE NEAREST
TITANS SOME
DISTANCE
AWAY!!

THIRTY
SECONDS
TO GATE
OPENING!!



ALMOST
READY!

COM-
MAN-
DER
!!



SHOW
ME WHAT
YOU'VE
LEARNED
!!

THIS IS IT!!
NOW THE
HUMAN RACE
TAKES
ANOTHER
STEP
FORWARD!!

RUMBLE

AD-
VANCE
!!

LAUNCH
THE 57TH
EXPEDITION
OUTSIDE
THE WALL!

OPEN
THE
GATE!!

**RUMBLE
RUMBLE**







10-METER*
CLASS TITAN
APPROACHING
FROM THE
LEFT!!

* ABOUT 33 FEET.







Current Publicly Available Information

10. Survey Corps Horses

THE STABLE HORSES USED BY THE SURVEY CORPS ARE SELECTIVELY BRED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 160 CM (5 FEET 3 INCHES) TALL AND 450-500 KG (990-1,100 LBS). THEY CAN GET BY ON A SIMPLE DIET AND TRAVEL FOR MANY HOURS WITHOUT COMPLAINING. THESE HORSES HAVE A MILD TEMPERAMENT AND RARELY PANIC, EVEN WHEN CONFRONTED WITH TITANS. THEIR TOP SPEED IS BETWEEN 75-80 KPH (46-50 MPH), AND THEY CAN MAINTAIN A SWIFT 35 KPH (22 MPH) GALLOP. THE HORSES ARE TENACIOUS, ABLE TO MAINTAIN A FINE SPEED OF 20 KPH (12 MPH) EVEN WHEN PULLING A CARRIAGE. THEY AREN'T THE TITANS' DIRECT GOAL AND ARE ABLE TO OUTRUN THE TITANS ON FOOT, MAKING THEM THE ONLY METHOD OF ESCAPE. THESE HORSES ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE. IN MONETARY TERMS, ONE IS WORTH AN AVERAGE PERSON'S LIFETIME INCOME. (WITH THANKS TO UKYŌ KODACHI AND KIYOMUNE MIWA)

